

Back in my State of New York we are seeing more and more illegal guns coming into my city. It is probably happening in a lot of other States. It is only a small percentage of those bad people that are buying these illegal guns that we can stop.

Madam Speaker, there are so many things we could do to stop gun violence in this country, to make a difference. And I know it is not on the top of the list of everybody in this country. I know the majority of people are struggling to just get through their day, working, coming home, taking care of the family, doing everything that a family should be doing because they honestly feel that we as politicians are down here protecting them.

We talk about homeland security. We talk about possible terrorists in this country, and yet we make it so easy for those out there to buy guns.

Madam Speaker, I hope we can make a difference. I hope we can change the dialogue. I hope we can save lives. I hope we can prevent injuries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McDERMOTT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ addressed the House. Her remarks will

appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Brain Awareness Week, which reminds us that neuroscience research is critical to the health of U.S. global competitiveness and much of this research is done by the National Institutes of Health.

As Members of Congress, many of us from both sides of the aisle make a commitment to doubling the NIH budget, and many of us now wonder what do we get for what we paid for.

Some are asking this and I have asked them to look at [www.SFN.org](http://www.SFN.org), which stands for the Society of Neuroscience which has produced 24 separate brain research success stories. Behind me here you see some of the incredible technology that is giving rise to research in the brain by helping us through PET scans and fMRIs, looking into the brain as we have never been able to do before.

These discoveries have allowed us to develop treatments that reduce the severity of symptoms for those suffering from Parkinson's, those suffering from affective disorders. We have seen a whole new class of anti-depressants that produce fewer side effects than their predecessors. We have also seen great breakthroughs in the identification of new stroke treatment and prevention methods, and we have seen the creation of ways to help prevent epileptic seizures, as well as expansion of treatments for psychotic symptoms and schizophrenia. Research brings hope and improves the lives of millions of Americans.

Madam Speaker, in this country mental illnesses comprise the second leading cause of lost work days in our country. Suicide in this country is twice the rate of homicide. We lose 34,000 people a year to suicide. The fact of the matter is we have 1,300 young people every single day who try to take their lives in this country. And yet we can reach into this brain science, find and discover ways to help reduce the severity of mental illness and address the needs that people have that cause them to suffer so greatly.

Madam Speaker, I would just point once again to the fact that we have had technology thanks to the National Institutes of Mental Health, the National Institute of Drug Addiction, the National Institute of Alcoholism that has demonstrated to us that we are going to see great promise. But we need the American people to call their Members of Congress and say to their Members of Congress, we want full funding for mental health research and neuroscience.

We have come too far to step back now. Anybody watching this program

needs to call their Members of Congress, their Senator and their Representative, and say we do not want to take a step backward in brain research. We want us to go forward to help solve the many mysteries of the brain and the suffering that is going out around this country from those who are suffering from mental illness.

Madam Speaker, we also need them to ask for parity for mental health coverage, which means equal insurance coverage for mental illness as every other physical illness. You cannot look at these poster boards and not tell me that mental illness is physical illness.

It is not a sign of a character defect if they are depressed, if they are suffering from mental illness. It is a sign that they need the kind of attention to the organ, which is their brain, the organ which is their brain that too often has been associated with stigma and stereotype that has guided our policymaking too much of the time; and as a result we spend less than four of every 100 of your dollars at NIH studying brain diseases even though they comprise the second leading cause of lost days in this country.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week and join me in helping to continue the research, the very promising work that is going on in our institutes of health that help us find the discoveries that we need in order to relieve the suffering of millions of Americans.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. DAVIS of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mr. SHIMKUS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 3:00 p.m. on account of overseeing elections in Belarus.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.  
Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.  
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. VAN HOLLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.